United Nations

Centre against Apartheid

Notes and Documents

10/90

May 1990

STATEMENT ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA, HELD AT CAPE TOWN FROM 2 TO 4 MAY 1990

[Note: This issue, which is published in accordance with General Assembly resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989, contains the text of the statement released at the conclusion of talks between the representatives of the Government of South Africa and the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) on a common commitment towards the resolution of the existing climate of violence and intimidation from whatever quarter as well as a commitment to stability and to a peaceful process of negotiation. The talks took place at Groote Schuur, an official residence of the President of South Africa, at Cape Town from 2 to 4 May 1990.]

90-12594

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United Nations, New York 10017

The Government and the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) agree on a common commitment towards the resolution of the existing climate of violence and intimidation from whatever quarter as well as a commitment to stability and to a peaceful process of negotiations. Flowing from this commitment, the following was agreed upon:

1. The establishment of a working group to make recommendations on a defininition of political offences in the South African situation; to discuss, in this regard, time scales; and to advise on norms and mechanisms for dealing with the release of political prisoners and the granting of immunity in respect of political offences to those inside and outside South Africa. All persons who may be affected will be considered. The working group will bear in mind experiences in Namibia and elsewhere. The working group will aim to complete its work before 21 May 1990. It is understood that the South African Government, in its discretion, may consult other political parties and movements and other relevant bodies. The proceedings of the working group will be confidential. In the meantime, the following offences will receive attention immediately:

(a) The leaving of the country without a valid travel document;

(b) Any offences related merely to organizations which were previously prohibited.

2. In addition to the arrangements mentioned in paragraph 1, temporary immunity from prosecution for political offences committed before today will be considered on an urgent basis for members of the National Executive Committee and selected other members of ANC from outside the country, to enable them to return and help with the establishment and management of political activities, to assist in bringing violence to an end and to take part in peaceful political negotiations.

3. The Government undertakes to review existing security legislation to bring it into line with the new dynamic situation developing in South Africa in order to ensure normal and free political activities.

4. The Government reiterates its commitment to work towards the lifting of the state of emergency. In this context, ANC will exert itself to fulfil the objectives contained in the preamble.

5. Efficient channels of communication between the Government and ANC will be established in order to curb violence and intimidation from whatever quarter effectively.

The Government and ANC agree that the objectives contained in this minute should be achieved as early as possible.

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READEX FICHE

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